The Urban District Council of Royton.

acting also as the Burial Board for the Township of Royton.

Clerk's Office, - Town Hall,

Royton near Oldham.

11th February 189[illegible]

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ROYTON. CURTUS PROPTER HS

THOS BLEASDALE, CLERK.
Telephone No. 306.

Dear Sir,

Medical Officer's Report for 1894.

I forward herewith for your information a print of the annual report for 1894, of the [illegible] Officer of Health for this District.

Yours truly,

Thos Bleasdale

Clerk.

Urban Sanitary District of Royton.

1897.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

BEING AN

Account of the Sanitary Condition

WITH

Tabulated Statements of the Sickness and Mortality of the District.

RALPH YOUNG,

Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE

Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee

— OF THE —

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ROYTON.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Third Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the District. It is satisfactory to be able to state that the death rate for the year 1897 is less than it has been for some years, viz., 16·1 per 1,000, whilst at the same time the birth rate maintains a good average, viz., 27·4. There is nothing remarkable in the Sanitary Statistics of the year except, perhaps, their generally favourable character.

It is true that Scarlet Fever gives considerable trouble, but the reason of its continuance, and the difficulties met with in dealing with it are alluded to in the text of the Report. The Council is to be congratulated on the District having, for the first time for several years, been entirely free from Smallpox. From a consideration of the death rate, and a review of the Statistics generally, it would appear that the public are beginning to derive some return for the large capital invested in the laying down of main sewers and the construction of Sewage Works, which latter are acknowledged to be amongst the best and most efficient in the country.

Although the condition of some of the streets cannot be said to be satisfactory, this is largely owing to the unfinished condition of the drainage, which cannot, unfortunately, be completed at present.

It may be mentioned, however, that plans, &c., for the sewering, paving, and completing of upwards of 20 new streets are now in course of preparation, and, as soon as practicable, an application will be made to the Local Government Board for the requisite borrowing powers to carry out this work.

The question of borrowing powers for the completion of the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme is still in the hands of the Local Government Board, and, it may be added, that the application has been recommended by the Mersey and Irwell Rivers Committee for the special consideration of the former authority.

In order the better to prevent the spread of Infection, the early recognition of such diseases as Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever by Medical Practitioners is essential, and, in this respect, the thanks of the community are due to the public spirit of Professor Delèpine, of Manchester, who has provided convenient and inexpensive apparatus for the collection of Bacteriological specimens of these diseases, which may be forwarded to the Laboratory, Owens College, where they are examined, and a report issued gratuitously.

I may be allowed, moreover, to take this opportunity of thanking the Officers of the Sanitary Department for their conscientious work during the year, and for their assistance in gathering much of the material made use of in the compilation of the annexed Report.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RALPH YOUNG,

Medical Officer of Health.

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF ROYTON.

REPORT, 1897.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

In the following calculations the same method has been adopted as in former years of arriving at an approximate estimate of the population of the District. The Census of 1891 gives the number as 13,395, and the statement issued by the Council in 1894, provides us with further data. Population.

There have been 43 new houses erected during the year 1897, and although, of course, the tenants will not be entirely new arrivals, an average of 4·5 persons may be allowed to each house. New houses.

Taking all these items into consideration, 14,500 may be set down as the nearest possible estimate of the population of the Urban District of Royton at the middle of 1897, and it is distributed as follows :—

Thornham Ward	907
Dogford Ward	3327
Haggate Ward	3462
Dryclough Ward	2589
Heyside Ward	4215
	14,500

The number of births registered during the year shews a good average, viz., 398, (males 184, females 214,) being an annual rate of 27·4 per 1,000 of the population. In 1896 it was 27·5, and in 1895, 29·1. This is, nevertheless, slightly below the average of the Urban Districts of the County during the last few years, as recorded by the County Medical Officer. Births.

The deaths shew a marked reduction as compared with the previous year, viz., 234, (males 123, females 111,) or an annual rate of 16·1 per 1,000 of population. This decline places us in a much more favourable position than formerly, as compared with the other Urban Districts of the County, and we may at present be considered to have reached a nearly normal level Deaths.

in that respect. During the week ending October 9th no deaths at all were registered, a circumstance which may be considered almost phenomenal. In 1896 the death rate was 22·5, and in 1895 it was 22·3 The first quarter of the year 1897 was that in which the mortality was greatest. The average mortality of five previous years was 20·1.

At various ages.

The mortality at stated age periods is shewn in the table at the end of the Report, and, as usually happens, the greatest number occur under the age of 5 years.

Infant Mortality.

It is important to remark that the infant mortality partakes of the generally favourable character of the statistics of the District—55 deaths only under the age of 1 year having been registered during 1897, as compared with 89 in the previous year. The deaths of infants and young children under 1 and under 5 years of age respectively, from 1892 to 1897 inclusive, is shewn in the following table :—

	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897
Under 1 year	62	75	50	84	89	55
1 year and under 5 ...	42	43	31	45	50	35

Rate per 1,000 Births.

From this we find that in those under one year we have had a mortality of 138·1 per 1,000 registered births, and on further examination it is seen that the following are the causes assigned to the 55 deaths :—

Convulsions	15
Pulmonary Diseases—	
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, &c.	12
Diarrhœa	6
Premature birth	4
Measles	2
Whooping-Cough	3
Other causes	13
	55

There has thus been a very marked decline in the rate of infant mortality. It is hoped moreover that the "Infant Life Protection Act" now coming into force, will have a very beneficial effect in this respect throughout the Urban Districts generally.

The *principal* causes of death in the District and its different localities during the year under review have been as follows :— Mortality from Specified Diseases.

	Thornham Ward	Dryclough Ward	Heyside Ward	Dogford Ward	Haggate Ward	Total.
Pneumonia	3	1	7	6	10	27
Phthisis	1	4	6	7	10	28
Heart Disease	...	2	7	7	9	25
Bronchitis	2	2	8	5	5	22
Convulsions	...	4	4	4	6	18
Diseases of Digestive System	...	3	2	2	6	13
Diseases of Nervous System	...	1	6	2	4	13
Urinary Diseases	2	2	1	...	2	7
Whooping-Cough	1	2	3	...	1	7
Measles	...	1	3	1	...	5
Cancer	...	...	2	1	5	8
Premature Birth	...	...	1	2	1	4
Injuries	...	...	1	1	...	2
Old Age	1	1	1	3	6	12

The general mortality, from all classes of disease, in the different wards during the same year has been :— In Specified Localities.

	Deaths	Per 1,000 Population in Ward.	Area in Acres.	Persons per Acre.
Thornham Ward	11	12·1	740	1·22
Haggate Ward	80	23·1	304	11·38
Dogford Ward	51	15·3	280	11·88
Dryclough Ward	34	13·1	368	7·03
Heyside Ward	58	13·7	420	10·03

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number and distribution of.

The number of cases of this class of diseases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, as occurring in the separate wards of the District during 1897, has been as stated in the following table :—

	1897	Thornham Ward	Dogford Ward	Heyside Ward	Dryclough Ward	Haggate Ward
Scarlet Fever	67	...	25	9	13	20
Diphtheria	4	...	...	2	1	1
Enteric Fever	6	...	1	1	2	2
Erysipelas	16	2	4	2	3	5
Total.....	93	2	30	14	19	28

There is thus a marked improvement on the previous year, when there were 105 cases reported, and, indeed, there have been fewer new cases of Infectious Disease in 1897 than at any time since the year 1892. No doubt the influence of the better system of drainage adopted is beginning to make itself felt in the improved sanitary condition of the District.

Compared with previous years.

The *general prevalence* of this class of diseases in the whole District, as compared with previous years, is as follows :—

	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897
Scarlet Fever	37	30	45	125	59	67
Smallpox	3	46	15	13	13	...
Diphtheria	5	8	20	12	4	4
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	4	...
Enteric Fever (Typhoid).	5	6	2	13	8	6
Puerperal Fever.....	2	...	2	4	2	...
Erysipelas	10	12	16	13	15	16
Total.....	62	102	100	180	105	93

Mortality from Zymotic Diseases.

The mortality from Zymotic Diseases during the year under report has been, Scarlet Fever, 7; Diphtheria, 1; Measles, 5; Whooping-Cough, 7; Smallpox, 0; Diarrhœa, 8; Fever, (including Typhus, Typhoid, Influenza,) 3; which is again a decrease on the previous two years. The number of deaths from these seven kinds of disease during 1897, and in each of the previous five years, appears in the following table:—

Compared with previous years.

	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897
Smallpox	...	4	2	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	1	3	...	2	2	7
Measles	11	9	1	1	21	5
Diphtheria	...	5	12	12	5	1
Fever	...	...	...	1	...	3
Whooping-Cough	20	1	1	12	8	7
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	6	10	8
Total	32	22	16	34	46	31

Per 1,000.

The death rate per 1,000 from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases is here shown to be 2·1. This is an improvement on the high rate of mortality which was commented upon for 1896, viz., 3·2, and is also slightly under that of 1895, viz., 2·3. In every respect, therefore, the position of the District is better than it has been for a few years.

SPECIAL DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.

There is not much to be noted with regard to particular diseases with the exception, perhaps, of Scarlet Fever, which is still more prevalent than it ought to be, 67 cases having been reported during the past year with seven deaths. It must be observed, however, that in twelve instances, two cases occurred in one household, and in one instance, three cases. It was noted in one of the Monthly Reports to the Council that most of the houses where more than one case had been reported, special visitations were made by the Medical Officer, and it was found that the existence of open unpaved yards was the rule; several were dirty from over-flowing slop-water, and otherwise in an unsanitary condition. These were specially dealt with. Each case of Fever has been vigilantly followed up by the Inspector as reported, and the usual means adopted of School Notices, disinfection, &c., but, nothwithstanding all efforts in this direction, the imperfect means of securing complete isolation in cottage property makes it very difficult to hold the disease in check.

Causes of and measures adopted.

Smallpox.

It is matter of congratulation that for the first time for several years the District has been entirely free from Smallpox.

Typhoid Fever.

The number of cases of Typhoid or Enteric Fever reported during the year has been six only, with one death. In more than one instance, however, the disease reported under this head appears to have been of somewhat doubtful character. The house was examined in each case both by the Inspector and the Medical Officer, and careful inquiries made with respect to the water supply, drainage, &c. The excreta in cases of Typhoid is always specially dealt with at the destructor.

Erysipelas.

There is always a good deal of Erysipelas in this neighbourhood, the greatest number in 1897 occurring in the month of April. As has been previously observed, the high elevation of the District, and the exposure of the operatives to the influence of damp and cold winds on leaving the mills, which are maintained at a high degree of temperature, is, no doubt, the cause of the prevalence of Erysipelas, which very often attacks the face and head.

DEPARTMENTAL WORK.

Inspectors' proceedings.

The Inspector of Nuisances has attended all the meetings of the Sanitary Committee, and has reported and received their sanction for his proceedings in abolishing the nuisances and sanitary defects discovered in the course of his systematic examination of the District during the year. From his report it appears that the following nuisances have been abated or remedied :—

Details.

Defective or blocked drainage	47
,, ,, cesspools	13
,, ,, ashpits	9
Dirty yards...	7
Various others	4
	80

In addition to these, 26 cesspools and 4 privies have been abolished, and 57 sanitary pans substituted.

Nightsoil.

The method of dealing with the nightsoil alluded to in the Medical Officer's Report for 1895 is receiving attention, and future difficulties in this direction will be to a great extent obviated by the erection of waste-water closets on the building of new houses. About 120 closets on this system have been erected during the last year, and the result is eminently satisfactory.

Unsanitary dwellings. House to house Inspection.

A house to house examination of Downing Street and Mill Street has been made by a Sub-Committee, in conjunction with the Medical Officer and Inspector, and a detailed statement made out by the former, of the defects discovered.

Although an attempt has been made by the owner to remedy some of the evils complained of, such as worn-out floors, broken staircases, defective slop-pipes, spouting, drainage, &c., this has not been satisfactory

to the Council, and the whole matter, therefore, is at present under consideration, and proceedings are contemplated, especially as some of the dwellings are unfit for habitation.

Mills and Workshops.

The whole of the mills and workshops have been inspected, and the sanitary arrangements comply with the regulations.

Slaughter houses.

The slaughter houses have been frequently visited by the Inspector and the Veterinary Officer, Mr. Hall, who reports them to be in a clean and satisfactory condition, except in three instances, where slight repairs are required. One new license has been granted, but the license of another which was reported as unsatisfactory last year was not renewed.

Bakehouses.

The bakehouses, 41 in number, have been visited occasionally during the year, and found quite clean and orderly.

The meat offered for sale in the various shops in the District has been found of a proper kind and quality.

Triperies.

The tripe-boiling places, of which there are four, are kept in a fairly clean and satisfactory condition.

Dairies and Cow-sheds.

There has been no Infectious Disease directly traceable to the milk supply, but the question of dealing with the dairies and cow-sheds, and the making of suitable regulations for the management of the same is at present receiving the consideration of the Council.

Refuse removal

The refuse has been dealt with, as usual, by the destructor.

Smoke prosecutions.

The prosecutions undertaken by the Council for house chimney firing were six in number, and resulted in conviction in each case. Other prosecutions, to the number of 22, were undertaken at the instance of Mrs. Hopwood, of Hopwood Hall, on behalf of the Oldham and District Smoke Abatement League, resulting in a conviction in every case.

TABLE OF DEATHS.

During the year 1897, in the Royton Urban Sanitary District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	Mortality from all causes at subjoined ages.								Mortality from Subjoined Causes, distinguishing Deaths under 5.															
	At all Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upw'rds		Scarlet Fever	Diptheria	Enteric or Typhoid	Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping-Cough	Diarrhœa	Rheumatic Fever	Influenza	Phthisis	Bronchitis and Pneumonia	Heart Disease	Injuries	All other	Total
Thornham Ward	11	2	1	...	...	6	2	Under 5 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	3
								5 upwards...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	...	3	8
Haggate Ward	80	20	9	5	3	25	18	Under 5 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	2	8	...	...	15	29
								5 upwards...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	8	7	9	...	23	51
Dogford Ward	51	11	8	4	2	21	5	Under 5 ...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	4	...	1	9	19
								5 upwards...	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	6	7	7	...	8	32
Dryclough Ward	34	7	4	5	5	12	1	Under 5 ...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	5	11
								5 upwards...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	4	2	2	...	10	23
Heyside Ward	58	15	13	5	2	13	10	Under 5 ...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	3	...	...	...	9	...	...	10	28
								5 upwards...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	6	7	1	10	30
	234	55	35	19	12	77	36	Under 5 ...	2	1	...	...	...	5	7	8	...	...	3	23	...	1	40	90
								5 upwards...	5	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	2	2	25	26	25	1	54	144

January, 1898.

RALPH YOUNG,

Medical Officer of Health.